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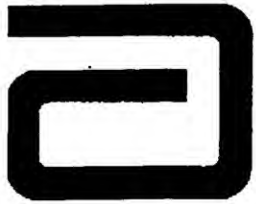
BETH A. VRIONI  
100 Abbott Park Road  
D-377, AP6A-1  
Abbott Park, IL 60084-6008

t 847-938-7576  
f 847-938-2629

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DATE: January 16, 2007  
TO: MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Attn: Examiner James L. Swiger III  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
FAX: 571-273-8300  
FROM: Beth Vrioni  
TOTAL PAGES: 7 (including cover)

**COMMENTS:**

Applicant(s): Landry, *et al.*  
Serial No.: 10/698,010  
Filed: October 30, 2003  
For: SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS USING MINIMALLY INVASIVE  
SURGICAL PROCEDURE  
Attorney Docket No.: 5259-10700US02  
Examiner: James L. Swiger III  
Group Art Unit: 3733

Please find enclosed:

- 1) Amendment and Response (5 pages), last page in duplicate

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Landry, et al.

Serial No.: 10/698,010

Filed: October 30, 2003

For: SPINAL STABILIZATION  
SYSTEMS AND METHODS  
USING MINIMALLY INVASIVE  
SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Docket No.: 5259-10700US02

Examiner: Swiger III, James L.

Group Art Unit: 3733

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Date: January 16, 2007

Karen R. Smith 1/16/07  
Karen R. Smith Date

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

MS Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 28, 2006 and in response to the Office Communication dated January 5, 2006, please amend the above-referenced application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.